

# NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

## U. S. WEIGHTS, MEASURES, AND BALANCES.

Upon a late visit to the Office of Weights and Measures, of which Professor ALEXANDER D. BACHE is the Superintendent, a variety of items of information were obtained which may prove interesting to our readers. In the year 1835 the Senate passed a resolution authorizing the construction of standards of weights and measures for the custom-houses of the Union; in 1836 the Treasury Department was directed by Congress to have a set of these standards made for the several States of the Union, and in 1838 the construction of standard balances was ordered by the same authority. This work was originally under the direction of EDWARD T. HASSLER, Esq., who, previous to his decease in 1843, had made considerable progress. Since that time the work has been under the superintendence of Professor BACHE, Superintendent of the Coast Survey, but under the execution of JOSEPH SEXTON, Esq.

The object to be attained by the distribution of the above standards to the States and the custom-houses of the United States is a complete uniformity of weights, measures, and balances. In accomplishing this end, it is expected that copies of the original standards will be distributed by the State authorities to the counties of each State, and by the counties to the towns and parishes. We cannot hope to give our readers an idea of the exquisite mechanism and high finish which distinguish the original standards; we can only say that no stranger ought to visit Washington without making a brief visit to the establishment where they are manufactured. The material of which they are made is brass, composed of an alloy of three parts of copper and one of zinc. The county standards are expected to be made of the same material, while those for the towns are to be made of iron instead of brass.

On questioning Mr. SEXTON with regard to the origin and legal enactments of the standards of weights and measures, he gave us the following information:

The actual standard of length is a *brass scale*, eighty-two inches long, prepared for the survey of the coast of the United States by Troughton, of London, and now in the office of weights and measures.

The units of capacity-measure are the *gallon* for liquid and the *bushel* for dry measure.

The standard of weight is the *troy pound*, copied by Captain Kater in 1827 from the imperial troy pound employed by the United States Mint, and now preserved in that establishment.

A complete set of standards of weights and measures supplied by the Government consists of, first, a set of weights from one pound avoirdupois to fifty pounds, and a troy pound; secondly, a set of weights from one ounce troy to one ten-thousandth of an ounce; thirdly, a yard measure; fourthly, a set of liquid measures, consisting of the gallon and its parts, down to the half pint, inclusive; and, fifthly, one half-bushel measure.

The States which have already been supplied with these standards are as follows: Maine, Massachusetts, Vermont, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky, Illinois, Missouri, and Arkansas. The States of New Hampshire, Tennessee, Louisiana, Indiana, and Mississippi are only partly supplied, and orders have been received by Professor BACHE to prepare standards for Florida, Texas, Iowa, and Wisconsin.

With regard to the balances, we are informed that complete sets have already been forwarded to the States of Ohio, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts, Delaware, and South Carolina, and that seventeen additional sets are now ready to be delivered to the first seventeen States that will inform the Government of their readiness to erect them. When these States are prepared to receive the balances, suitable persons will be sent to set them up and explain their construction and use; and Professor BACHE considers it desirable that gentlemen connected with learned institutions should have charge of the above standards.

In this connection it may not be out of place to mention the fact that a complete set of the above standards are to be presented to the Government of France, at the suggestion, we believe, of M. VATTIERE.

## OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

On visiting the Office of Indian Affairs the other morning, a friend of ours fell into conversation with HENRY R. SCHOOLCRAFT, Esq., in regard to the famous tribe of Iroquois Indians, which is said to have been the most powerful group of American aborigines. We were shown the reprint of a report, originally made by this gentleman to the Legislature of New York, on the history of this tribe of Indians, and found it exceedingly rich in the departments of traditionary history and philology. Among the matters discussed in this volume is the curious fact, in a political point of view, that the principles of the ancient Iroquois confederacy required absolute unanimity in all the cantons, in order to bind them in questions of war and peace. According to Mr. Schoolcraft, the Iroquois are in a state of advanced semi-civilization; they are producers of a greater amount of grain and other agricultural means than they consume, and appear capable of sustaining a fair rivalry with their Anglo-Saxon neighbors in the field of husbandry. Since the publication of the above mentioned report, the Legislature of New York has made provision for extending a complete school system throughout the tribes within the borders of that State, and also enacted laws for their special benefit. We also understand that, under an act passed by the Government of the United States, Mr. Schoolcraft is now devoting his entire time to making researches and collecting statistics respecting the Indians of the Great West, with a view to the future policy and legislation of our Government respecting them. If it be for no other purpose but to dissipate the false impressions heretofore existing in regard to the manners and customs of the North American Indians, as well as to their character, condition, and general intelligence, the labors of this gentleman must meet with a friendly response from all, on the frontier or elsewhere, who are capable of furnishing authentic information. Our obligations to these tribes are not wholly performed by giving them money and merchandise. They have claims to the patronage of our Government which can supply them with the blessings of education, Christianity, agriculture, and the arts. The Indian tribes now living on this continent are the remains of an ancient but long-lost branch of mankind, who were the original possessors of the soil. They appeal to our nationality in its highest aspects, and we are responsible for our treatment of them under the maxims of civilization. The labors upon which Mr. Schoolcraft is now engaged are not only valuable but exceedingly interesting, and we hardly know of a public office in the city where one can spend a more agreeable hour than in examining the documents and Indian publications which may be seen at the Office of Indian Affairs.

**FATAL RAILROAD ACCIDENT.**—On Wednesday, the train for Albany was in the vicinity of the Palmer Depot, when a sleigh was seen in the act of crossing the track. The whistle was blown to warn him of his danger, when, after a moment's hesitation, he whipped up his horse and attempted to cross in front of the train. The locomotive, however, struck the horse, and after whirling him round two or three times, threw him down a bank of some fifteen feet. The man was thrown upon the track, and the train passed over him. Both his legs were cut off and he was very badly mangled about the shoulder. He lived but a short time. We hear that his name was Blanchard, a farmer, and that he was upwards of seventy years of age.—*Boston Traveller.*

**POPULATION OF CLEVELAND.**—This beautiful city of the lakes, we see by the annual census for the year 1846, had increased, continues its steady and somewhat rapid growth. The number of males is reported at 7,076, of females 6,583; total 13,659, to which 375 are added for the "non-residents" (emigrants) making the whole number of inhabitants 14,034. The number of colored people in the city is put at 184.

## INTERNATIONAL COURTESIES.

FROM THE NEWARK DAILY ADVERTISER.

GIBSON, the Historian, once remarked in a spirit of good anticipation, that he "always reflected with pleasure that whatever might be the changes in the political situation of the North American Colonies, they would always preserve the manners of England, and that the English language would yet be diffused over an immense and populous continent." It was in this spirit of partial fondness, too, that the venerable CHATHAM, at a later day, in the exercise of a wise forecast, admonished the British Parliament against all measures to alienate the heart of the child from the mother. And how completely have the delightful anticipations of these wise men been realized! An Englishman should always cherish such feelings towards us. No disposition could be more natural and just, and every expression of such sympathies and affections is sure of a cordial response.

We notice, therefore, with much gratification an agreeable instance of the interchange of these national courtesies, in the anniversary proceedings of an Agricultural Society in Essex, as reported by an English journal. The meeting was held in the Agricultural Hall at Saffron Walden, which was fully decorated for the occasion. It was an imposing assemblage. Lord BRAYBROOKE presided, and among the distinguished persons present were LORDS SONDERS and WALSHINGHAM, MESSRS. DUNCOMBE, MEUX, NEVILLE, and other M. P.'s, HON. A. HERBERT, and MESSRS. COLMAN (the eminent American agricultural agent) and BASSETT, of the United States, &c.

After speeches by the Chair and the Vice President—

LORD SONDERS was called out, and said: Lord Braybrooke had stated some of the advantages of keeping up these associations, and there certainly never was a time when they were more necessary. [Hear, hear.] He had also alluded to the excited state of continental nations, and how happy England was in stemming the tide of revolution and warfare, but he (Lord Sonders) had to advert to another nation whom they might call brothers, with whom, owing to the extraordinary rapidity and improvement of navigation, they were daily becoming united; and he would express the hope, not only as individuals, but as the national feeling, that never again might they see a war between us and that nation: he spoke of the United States of America. [Loud cheers.] Never again might they contend except in the friendly contest of the sportsman or the skilful agriculturist, but he would say that the progress of agriculture and the better manner in which it concerns could be benefited. [Hear, hear.] He begged to give them, "Prosperity to the United States of America, with the health of Mr. Colman." [Much applause.]

LORD BRAYBROOKE added that he had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Colman as an old friend, and he (the President) took as a compliment, because he was to sail next Monday with his friend, Mr. Bassett, for the United States. He therefore called upon the company to give three cheers for the voyagers.

The call was most heartily responded to, and—

MR. COLMAN said: I am deeply sensible of the honor you have done me in drinking my health, and I am most happy to meet the farmers of Essex as a recognized old friend. I am grateful for the terms in which the noble lord has been pleased to speak of my country, and to express that which I am sure is the general wish of the people of America. I do assure you that I believe if there was an electric telegraph from the shores of the United States to the shores of England, by which the wish could be communicated, it would be returned in an echo of thunder by every true hearted native-born American. [Applause.] In wishing prosperity to this country—prosperity to England and to the United States, permit me to say that my first intention in visiting the agriculturalists, I came to this country to look at the agriculture of England, and, in accordance with that intention, I have visited several counties; I have examined those humble talents for observation which God has given me, and I must say that in some respects, as regards the improvement of animals especially, English agriculture outstrips that of America. I am not, however, desirous of improvements still remains untried; but in all other respects there are at work those means, purposes, and sentiments which are sure to come out at the head of the race, unless we on the other side of the water do our part. [Applause.] I have no doubt that the agriculture of England requires some improvement. In all human probability this will be the last occasion on which I shall have it in my power to address an assemblage of English agriculturalists, for I am an old man, in the decline of life, and, therefore, I must crave your indulgence if on this occasion I extend my remarks on the subject of agriculture. The English system of agriculture is a proverb which involves the whole system of agriculture: "Without forage, no cattle; without cattle, no manure; without manure, no crop." [Applause.] Now, I take on myself, in the first place, to say that you are deficient in the saving of manure; and, in the second, your crops are not near so large as they might be.

After elucidating his positions at some length, and with much point, the speaker thus concludes:

I have done; I part from you with the deepest and most grateful affection for a hospitality I have found unbounded, for kindness that has been unceasing, and an intelligence and refinement of manners that are unapproachable. I am proud of any part of the world; and I can only pray that the sympathies that bind together these two nations of the earth in peace and civilization, the mother and daughter, the parent and child, may grow stronger and stronger. [Applause.] That which was considered the means of separation has become a bond of union and friendship. I am not too much oppressed with all I have seen in England to express my wishes as I could desire; but I earnestly pray for the continued prosperity, for the wealth, happiness, and glory of that magnificent, that great and glorious land in which you live. [Cheers.]

Major DUNCOMBE, a member of Parliament, returned thanks in a speech of considerable length in behalf of himself and the other members, whose health had just been drunk.

MR. BASSETT said there was nothing which could more contribute to make an American feel at home in a foreign country than to find himself in a kindred land, and familiar with similar institutions extending to the same ends, and together for the purpose of improving the various productions of agriculture, and encouraging that most useful branch of native industry. [Applause.]

They would allow him to say that the harmonious intercourse existing between the two countries afforded facilities for their mutual improvement, and he could not but hope that they would ever co-operate in the same manner, and that the advances in all the useful arts. Further, he trusted that in the present agitated state of the world they should co-operate to give stability to those free institutions which characterized their respective Governments. Republicanism seemed to be the predominant feeling of the world, but he might observe that the United States and England were not very likely to prove successful without a republicanism. [Hear, hear.] To establish a republican Government was not an easy matter.

It was a Government of a complicated character, requiring particular education and habits, and must be established for some time before it could be considered a permanent Government. [Hear, hear.] The experience derived in the United States of free institutions established in the form of a republican Government might be considered rather as a phenomenon, and one that did not exist in any other part of the world. Here again he might remark that for this good fortune they were mainly indebted to Great Britain. The people who first settled in America came over fully impressed with the importance of the British constitution, and had not been for that circumstance they should not have been able to embody in republican form those principles of civil and religious liberty which particularly characterized the Government of England. [Applause.]

THE LATE STORM AT THE EAST—MORE DISASTERS AND LOSS OF LIFE.—The Boston Traveller of Tuesday has accounts of further disasters at sea during the late storm. The British schooner Olive, Oliver, was wrecked near Point Allerton. All hands lost. She had five or six persons on board.

Schooner Welcome Return, Captain Hewitt, of and from Prince Edward's Island for Boston, went ashore at Rocky Hill, off Plymouth, on the evening of the 20th instant, and immediately went to pieces. The crew were all saved. A woman who was on board, with six children, succeeded in reaching the shore with her infant in her arms, while the other five were lost. A correspondent of the Courier says that "the bodies were recovered and placed in the Town Hall, presenting five beautiful faces as were ever seen in one family."

Ship Clara, of Portsmouth, Capt. Penhallow, from Cadiz, October 1st, went ashore on Truro Beach, two miles south of Cape Cod light, on Monday, at 9 A. M. Capt. Penhallow lost the vessel overboard a few minutes previous to her striking. The remainder of the crew were saved.

## INTERESTING CORRESPONDENCE.

FROM THE BALTIMORE PATRIOT OF NOVEMBER 21.

We have been furnished with the following correspondence for publication.

The letters will sufficiently explain the circumstances under which it took place. MR. PEABODY, who was made the special object of the thanks of the Legislature of Maryland, will be remembered by many of our citizens as formerly a distinguished merchant of Baltimore, but who has for many years been a resident of London. The GOVERNOR, in transmitting to him the resolutions of the Legislature, selected MR. SPEED as the medium through whom they should be communicated, because, as it may readily be supposed, of the prominent and influential part taken by MR. S. in the great work of redeeming the faith of the State, which was so happily and so successfully accomplished at the session of the Legislature of 1846. Such marks of approbation are not often given, and are the more on that account to be esteemed. They could not be more worthily bestowed than they were on this occasion.

Letter from Mr. Geo. Thomas to J. J. Speed, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR: Your note was good enough, at my request, to consent to take charge of the resolutions of the General Assembly, referring, in complimentary terms, to the conduct of Mr. Geo. Peabody in connection with the public debt of the State, and to forward them, as soon as received, by some safe conveyance to London. I have now the pleasure to place in your hands these resolutions, together with a letter from myself, drawn in such terms as I conceived to be appropriate, and in conformity to what I suppose was the intention of the Legislature, as expressed in the last of the resolutions. I also herewith enclose copies of both these papers, to be used as you think proper. For your kindness in undertaking to cause them to be transmitted, you will be pleased to accept my thanks.

I am, dear sir, your obliged and obedient servant,

J. J. SPEED, Esq.

Letter from Mr. Speed to Geo. Peabody, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR: The Governor of Maryland—referring, I presume, to my late correspondence with you on several public topics—has chosen to make me the instrument of transmitting to you the resolutions of the Legislature, passed at its late session, tending to the thanks of the Government for your services rendered to the State in the redemption of the public debt.

When you reflect that these resolutions convey the thanks of a sovereign State—one of those that laid the foundations of this republic—for services rendered her reputation abroad, you will not fail to prize the distinction, be well, I know, regard to the honor of the State in its late afflictions in a foreign land, and in presenting its integrity, in true lights, to foreign minds.

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I have purposely delayed the communication of the enclosed resolutions until the period above referred to had passed by, believing that could render you no more acceptable service than by accompanying their transmission with the intelligence of the entire success with which the efforts to restore the credit of the State have been crowned. It is my privilege to inform you that the liabilities of the State payable on the first of October have been promptly met without the slightest inconvenience to the treasury, and that, after the payment of the quarter's interest then due, of the sterling interest due on the first of next January, and the interest on the funded arrears, there remained a surplus, which is every day increasing, much more than sufficient to cover the balance of the January instalment payable at the loan office in Baltimore. The credit of Maryland is thus fully restored, her public honor redeemed, every suspicion of bad faith removed, and no reasonable doubt remains as to her ability to maintain the proud and elevated position she now occupies.

To you, sir, who have had no inconsiderable agency in the accomplishment of this gratifying result, the thanks of the State were eminently due. The action of the General Assembly reflects faithfully the feelings of gratitude which your generous devotion to the interests of the State has awakened in the bosom of every good citizen of Maryland; and, while I am happy in having been made the organ of communicating this well-merited tribute to the public and private virtue, I avail myself of the opportunity which the occasion affords to assure you that the sentiments embodied in these resolutions have commanded my most hearty and cordial concurrence.

I have the honor to be, with great respect, your obedient servant,

PHILIP F. THOMAS.

Resolutions of the Legislature of Maryland.

By THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, MARCH 7, 1848.

Whereas Mr. Geo. Peabody, a citizen of Maryland, now resident of London, was appointed one of three Commissioners under the act of Assembly of eighteen hundred and thirty-five, to negotiate a loan for this State, and, after performing the duties assigned to him, refused to apply for the compensation allowed by the provisions of that act, because he was unwilling to add to the burdens of the State at a time when she was overburdened with the weight of her obligations; and whereas, since the credit of the State has been restored, he has voluntarily relinquished all claim for the compensation due to him for his services, expressing himself fully paid by the gratification of seeing the State freed from reproach in the eyes of the world;

Resolved, That the General Assembly of Maryland, do unanimously resolve, that the record of such disinterested and high praise than any that eloquence could bestow, and that this Legislature is therefore content with tendering the thanks of the State to Mr. Peabody for his generous devotion to the interests and honor of Maryland.

And further resolved, That the Governor of this State be requested to transmit to Mr. Peabody in such manner as he may deem most appropriate.

By order: GEORGE G. BREWER, Clerk.

By the Senate, March 8, 1848.—Read and assented to.

By order: J. H. NICHOLSON, Clerk.

True copy: R. W. GILL, Clerk.

Court of Appeals W. S.

COMPOSITION OF BONES.

Bones differ slightly in composition in different animals; they vary also with the age of the animal and the part of the body from which they are taken. The following composition of the bones of the cow will represent very nearly that of the bones which are usually applied to the land:

Organic animal matter, (gelatine,) 33.1  
Phosphate of lime, 55.4  
Phosphate of magnesia, 3  
Carbonate of lime, 52  
Soda and common salt, 34  
Chloride of calcium, 100

When bones are burnt in the open fire the animal matter they contain (the gelatine) disappears, and the white bone earth alone remains. These two portions of the bone, the inorganic or organic and the incombustible or inorganic part, are equally essential to the fertilizing action which the bones produce. As some inexperienced writers have disputed this in regard to the organic part, it will be proper briefly to advert to its composition and mode of action.

Composition and Mode of Action of the Organic Part of Bones.

The gelatine of bones consists of—  
Carbon, 50.37  
Hydrogen, 6.33  
Nitrogen, 17.95  
Oxygen, 25.35

It is identical in composition with horn and with isinglass, and is very nearly the same as hair, wool, and skin. It is of importance to recollect that it contains about eighteen per cent. or one-sixth of its weight of nitrogen.

The organic part of a bone is likely to be beneficially as a manure in the soil, and that the bones,